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Commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Although the holiday celebration of Dr. King's life is on January 15, 2007 his true birth date is that of January 15, 1929. He was born Michael (later changed to Martin) Luther King, Jr. in Atlanta, GA. Therefore, Martin grew up seeing the injustices faced by blacks in that time. Therefore his childhood influenced the road that this man traveled throughout his life. Martin Luther King, Jr's contribution to our history places him in a high position. In his short life Dr. King was instrumental in making us realize and rectify those unspeakable flaws that were tarnishing the name of America. The events which took place in and around his life were earth shattering, because it represented an America that was uneasy and hostile which is different from the America as we see it today.

Martin Luther King, Jr. captured fame when he came to the assistance of a seamstress named Rosa Parks, a native of Montgomery, AL who refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus to a white passenger. Which at the time African-Americans were subject to second class citizenship by restrictive laws and customs. To influence change of these laws black people were usually faced with humiliation and racism by police and the legal system. Beatings, imprisonment and sometimes death were unavoidable for those who defied the system. America and not only black America needed a man named Martin Luther King, Jr.

The characteristics of a man such as Martin Luther King, Jr. are not to be taken lightly or for granted. In 13 years, 1955 to his death in 1968 Martin Luther King was able to expose and eliminate America from many wrongs. He was especially important because of his non-violent passive resistance to racial injustice. In a time of despair this leader gave black America a ray of hope. We honor him today because he showed a way to mold the future of Americans as to what we know America to be today. He displayed his philosophy in the streets of America by way of marches, at the Governor's mansions throughout various states in the south and even at the white House in an effort to promote change for the oppressed souls of black folk.

Seeing what Dr. King did even though he faced terrible opposition should inspire all Americans to continue to work toward a common goal. It is the responsibility of all citizens of America not just blacks because one group can not do it alone to see that his dream continues to come alive today. I encourage all employees to participate in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in your perspective areas.

Ana L. Gomes
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